

ACTING DIRECTOR CHARLES L. RYAN

DECEMBER - 2002

ADC Mourns Della Meadows

by Julie Lowry Executive Staff Assistant, NROD

In the early morning hours Saturday, December 14, 2002, Mrs. Della Meadows and her husband, Phil Meadows, passed away when their home in Florence, Arizona caught fire. Mrs. Meadows, 83, was a legendary employee of the Arizona Department of Corrections and is an integral part of ADC's history.

Della Meadows was the very first female employee of the State Prison, hired by Bud Gomes on March 1, 1948. At that time, she served as the Warden's secretary, but was also solely responsible for Personnel, the Business Office, fingerprinting and taking photographs of both staff and inmates and inmate records. She is most noted

Meadows-continued on page 7



Mrs. Della Meadows in 1979

An Admirable Response to a Disturbance

by David Rivas, ADW, ASPC-Florence

November 18 began as any routine day at the ASPC-Florence, Central Unit. This routine would soon be challenged. In the morning, the Central Unit's management team were reviewing the weekend's information reports and paperwork, as well as discussing current issues. It was during this meeting that an issue was raised about an inmate who wanted to transfer from his building, Cell Block One. After the meeting, COIV Richard Bock and SSU Sergeant Brent Burtsfield interviewed the inmate who revealed nothing except his request to move from Cell Block One. This request would hold more significance later.

This was the first day at Central Unit for Chief of Security, Captain

staff quells disturbance-continued on page 3

First EIP Referral Graduates COTA



This Holiday Season Keith Waldrep will have an extra \$200 in his pocket for referring Julie Zobec to work at the Arizona Department of Corrections. Ms. Zobec, who graduated COTA on December 13, was the first Correctional Officer referred under the Employee Incentive Program. (Above) Julie Zobec stands between Parole Supervisor Keith Waldrep as Acting Director Ryan presents Mr. Waldrep a check for \$200.

In This Issue...

Director's Perspective: Once again we are celebrating the holiday season.....2
ADC Video Studio adds another piece of hardware to their trophy collection.....4.
Did you know ACI created 364 new jobs and a demand for approximately \$14.7 million in goods and services without any appropriated funding.....5
See Special Holiday Messages from Executive Staff on page..... 6
Yes, the hotline [1-866-787-SAFE (7233)] is still available to staff.....8

DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

by Acting Director Charles L. Ryan



Once again we are celebrating the holiday season. Particularly this year, citizens around the world are struggling with fear of loss of livelihood and a widespread sense of insecurity due to world events not in their control.

In the midst of this climate of anxiety, the employees of the Arizona Department of Corrections characteristically face adversity in the best possible way by realizing their blessings far outweigh their challenges. We are a Department comprised of professionals who live law-abiding lives, who are honest, who have gone to service for our country and strive to give back to their communities by contributing not just their money but their valuable time.

Acts of kindness are the norm when it comes to our employees. If a fellow employee is sick or injured, this inspires an outpouring of support; if a worthy cause needs funding our employees are the first to give and do so generously. This year, the ADC employees gave an unprecedented \$508,000 to the 2002 State Employees Charitable Campaign, an annual fund-raising drive. This is the most a single agency has ever given in the history of the campaign.

There is a sad footnote to this year's holiday season. The tragic death of Della and Phil Meadows on December 14, 2002, marked the passage of the matriarch of the modern era of Arizona Corrections. Without equivocation, Della left her indelible mark on Arizona history and she will be missed.

In keeping with the spirit of the holiday season, I would like to use this opportunity to thank you for your support and commitment to the Department. This year has been an interesting one with many twists and turns, but I believe we have room for optimism.

The State's budget has captured the attention of the public, as you all know, and we have focused a great deal of attention on this subject. As our State strives to overcome a landmark deficit, the budget will continue to be the headline issue in the months ahead. Whatever budget decisions are made by the Legislature and Governor, I will continue to advocate on the behalf of our employees.

As a Department, even with severe staffing shortages we will strive to meet our responsibilities through a combination of improved efficiencies and a dedicated group of employees who take pride in their work. Please accept my gratitude for all the work you have done for the citizens of our State.

May you and your family have a joyous and safe holiday season.

"Directions"
is an official publication of the
Arizona Department of Corrections
Charles L. Ryan, Acting Director
Michael A. Arra,
Media Relations Administrator
Virginia Strankman,
Newsletter Editor



Web site:
adcprisoninfo.az.gov

Printed by
Arizona Correctional Industries

Media & Public Relations Office,
1601 W. Jefferson
Questions and comments
may be submitted to
Newsletter Editor
Mail Code 441,
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone (602) 542-3133

Staff Quells Disturbance - continued from page 1

Anthony Tedla. A day he will probably never forget. Later that morning it was reported that only 46 of the 120 cells from Cell Block One had left for recreation. This was unusual behavior. Because of this occurrence, Captain Tedla, SSU Sergeant Brent Burtsfield and Shift Commander, Lieutenant Glen Legate entered Cell Block One to investigate the low turn-out of inmates. During their tour of the building they found nothing unusual and left.

Suddenly, at 11 a.m., a call came over the radio by Officer Robert Thompson in Cell Block One announcing there were multiple fires in CB1. Officer Thompson reported, "This is not a simulation." Incident Management System was activated and Captain Tedla immediately took over as Incident Commander.

According to Captain Tedla, the smoke in CB One was so intense you could hardly see three feet in front of you. His main concern was the safety and security of his officers as they were being exposed to smoke. In addition, he sensed this was going to be a long ordeal and he was concerned about providing proper relief for his officers as the day progressed.

COII Cynthia Hopper, one of our Disciplinary Hearing Officers, was preparing cases when she heard the call over the radio . . . multiple fires in CB One. According to CO II Hopper, her immediate reaction was to report to the yard office and provide assistance. However, in her position it is a conflict of interest to become directly involved, but needless to say she couldn't stay in the office without lending some assistance.

It would be later in the day, while assisting in a special count that Officer Hopper would become the victim of an assault. As she was departing a run in Cell Block Four, a metal-type object was thrown in her direction and struck the back of her head requiring medical assistance. After being diagnosed and cleared, she reported right back to work that same evening and returned

to work the next morning.

In speaking with Central Unit staff about their personal experiences the responses were similar: They were concerned for the safety of their co-workers and appreciated all the support they received from their colleagues.

Deputy Warden Doug Schuster was impressed with the dedication to duty by the employees who initially responded to Cell Block One to extinguish the fires. "I was amazed at the tenacity of staff in fighting the fires, especially since they were being assaulted by having multiple projectiles thrown at them by inmates. Protective shields were ultimately required to protect staff fighting the fires. Employees were often overcome by smoke and tear gas, requiring them to fall back, regroup and re-engage." Deputy Warden Schuster continued by saying he was in Cell Block One during this time and remembered being concerned that inmates on the upper runs could not breathe. DW Schuster said, "I was concerned for the possible injury and loss of life. The swift and decisive action by ADC staff prevented serious injury and loss of life to these inmates. I felt proud to be a part of that effort."

Rocky Bonillas, a Correctional Officer II, who works Key Control was in the midst of the disturbance, beginning shortly after the first emergency call to late in the evening. Officer Bonillas wound up surrounded by smoke in Cell Block One. He recalls seeing COIV Richard Bock, along with COIIs Candelario Espinoza and Thomas Dean trying to put out fires as objects were hurled in their direction. Video taken by CO Bonillas would prove to be invaluable in the investigative phase of the disturbance.

Officer Thomas Dean was one of the first employees to respond to the disturbance. When he first arrived on



The aftermath of the disturbance

the scene all he could see was a tremendous amount of smoke. Objects were being thrown at him, until some staff with shields showed up. With the protection afforded, he began hosing down the fires. Officer Dean had little time to think about his own safety but was concerned about the safety of his fellow officers, the destruction of property and the danger to inmates from the fires. Assisting COII Dean was COII Candelario Espinoza who fought the fires in Cell Blocks One, Three and Four.

Richard Bock, a COIV, described fire balls being thrown in his direction. COII Espinoza and Bock were holding up shields to protect Officers Dean and Carlos Mata as they operated the fire hose. COIV Bock recalls instructing officers to saturate the runs to put out the fires. It was about the time that the fires were finally extinguished in Cell Block One, Bock recalls hearing on the radio, fires in Cell Block Three and Cell Block Four. When asked if he was concerned about staff safety, Bock reported, "It seemed the inmates were trying to annoy us but my main concern was staff accountability, due to the reduced visibility. I was concerned with officer safety in entering the other Cell Blocks, because we would have to go

Staff quells disturbance - continued on page 9

True Holiday Spirit

by Jess Medrano, Parole Manager



Senior Parole Officer Tony Reiss

For the past five years, Senior Parole Officer Tony Reiss of Community Corrections has been donating Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to needy families in South Tucson. With the help from the South Tucson's Mayor's Office and Chief of Police, Reiss has five food packages delivered to impoverished families in time for the holidays.

"I want to make sure food boxes go to needy families with children. I don't want to know who the families are, and I don't want the selected families to know I was a part in donating the boxes," said Officer Reiss. "Being a Parole Officer for over 30 years and conducting Pre-Release investigations in the community, I see and meet the sponsors of the children of offenders released and see the conditions they live in.

October's Answers



Sergeant William Birdsall and a nurse from the Phoenix Children's Hospital proudly display donated baby clothing.

SGT. Donates Baby Clothing

Recently, Sergeant William Birdsall of the Recruitment Unit for Selection and Hiring and his wife Janie donated approximately 50 preemie outfits for Phoenix Children Hospital. The outfits were made by a CO II at Lewis' Morey Unit. The officer did not want her name disclosed. Birdsall knew of several parents at the Phoenix Children's Hospital who can't afford newborn clothing.

Video Unit Receives Major Awards

ADC Video Studio adds another piece of hardware to their trophy collection.

Staffed by Ruth Ann LeFebvre, Video Production Manager and Scott Anderson, Video Production Specialist II, the studio received two Awards of Merit from the Media Communications Association International's for Special Achievement in Screen Writing for their *Handling Suspicious Mail* and *MRSA the Misunderstood Bacteria* videos.

"This years awards from MCAI were unique because of the Special Achievement we received for Screen writing MRSA," said Ruth Ann LeFebvre. "Doctor Dillian LaSalle, Correctional Public Health Program Manager and I wrote the script to inform staff in simple, sometimes funny ways why, by following precautions, staff had nothing to fear from the MRSA bacteria. All of the videos we produce in-house are a result of lots of creative people working together from across the Department. It's great staff can see their efforts



Ruth Ann LeFebvre and Scott Anderson display their MCAI awards.

haven't gone unnoticed."

The Media Communications Association International is a global community of professionals devoted to the business and art of visual communication. The local Arizona chapter is composed of members from corporations, small businesses, agencies, non-profit organizations, the government, education, the medical field, broadcast and cable television.

Cross-section Drawing Winner

Tim Lawrence, Central Office

Other Correct Entries

Terri White, Central Office
Bonnie Larsen, ASPC-Winslow
Ellen Pfulb, ASPC-Winslow

Correction

Please disregard 9 down on October's Corrections Cross-section. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Did You Know.....?

Recapping Arizona Correctional Industries Success in 2002

- Generated total revenues of \$17,419,754 from goods and services. Of that total revenue, 52.6% was generated from manufacturing, 34.4% from Public and Private Sector Partnerships, 10.1% from Service Enterprises, 1.6% from Agricultural Enterprises and 1.3 % from miscellaneous.
- Realized a net income of \$414,836
- Provided daily work opportunities for an average of 1,523 inmates in ACI work programs
- Contributed \$1 million to the State General Fund for the fourth year in a row and \$1 million to the Corrections Fund
- Contributed \$12.8 million to the economy of Arizona through expenditures for materials, supplies and outside services
- Through inmate wage deductions, ACI returned \$1,019,836 to the State General Fund in room and board
- Contributed \$133,783 to the Victims Compensation Fund
- \$97,066 was deducted from inmate wages and given to the Alcohol Abuse and Treatment Fund
- Created 336 new jobs and a demand for approximately \$14.7 million in goods and services without any appropriated funding.





ADC

Holiday Messages



I am truly honored and blessed with the privilege and opportunity to work with the greatest team of dedicated public servants. My association with you provides me ongoing, and indescribable feelings of joy.

My professional and personal life continues to be enriched by the ASPC Florence Team/Family and in this Holiday Season I hope that each of you and your families have the merriest of holidays.

Warden Bennie H. Rollins
ASPC-Florence

I wish a Happy Holiday to all Eyman Complex Staff. It has been a great year, thanks to all of your efforts! You're the best! May we all be blessed with a safe and Happy New Year.

Warden Charles Goldsmith
ASPC-Eyman

I wish all employees a safe holiday season. Through the efforts of all staff, the community betterment work performed, the Intergovernmental contracts we service, and effective prison management, we have continued to provide a better and safer environment for the citizens of Arizona.

Warden Greg Fizer
ASPC-Douglas

During these times of conflict and potential war we must pause and reflect upon our priorities. Reaching out to each other in the spirit of giving is appropriate all year long. This season is our reminder of these priorities. A heartfelt Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all.

Warden Mary Hennessy
ASPC-Perryville

I would like to take this time to extend my sincere gratitude to all staff within the Arizona Department of Corrections. Without your commitment to professionalism and unquestionable ethics, we, as a TEAM, could not achieve the goals requested of the agency and expected by the public.

I commend each and every one of you for your continued hard work. Please be safe and have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours.

Warden David D. Cluff,
ASPC - Winslow

As 2002 comes to a close, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for working so hard during the past 12 months. Throughout this time, there were a number of areas where we worked together and made a difference in the lives of others.

Thank you, for your dedication, determination and thoughtful giving. May you enjoy a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

William Gaspar
Warden ASPC-Perryville

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the efforts of the Yuma staff this past year. It is difficult to describe the immense pride that I have for the staff of the Arizona State Prison Complex at Yuma. May you have a Happy and Prosperous Holiday Season.

Warden Ivan Bartos
ASPC-Yuma

Seasons Greetings! May you and those you love have a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Warden Ernest Trujillo
ASPC-Safford

My heartfelt wishes go out to each of you and your families for holidays filled with joy, good health and peace. Thanks to all for your efforts during this past year. Enjoy the wonders of the season.

Deputy Director Richard Carlson

I pray all have a safe and fun holiday season. I hope all have time to enjoy family and faith and take time for themselves to relax and celebrate the joy of the true meaning of this holiday.

Warden Judy L. Frigo
ASPC-Phoenix

I would like to wish all Tucson employees and your families a very happy and safe holiday season. These last fourteen months have been difficult, but you have shown an amazing resilience through it all. I would particularly like to thank you for your support of the State Employee Charitable Campaign. Your donations will greatly impact those in need, which is part of what the holiday season is all about. I wish each of you the best of the holidays and an exceptionally fine New Year.

Warden Charles Flanagan
ASPC-Tucson

The Media & Public Relations Office of the Arizona Department of Corrections would like to wish all our fellow employees a year filled with hope, promise and happiness. The employees of the ADC are some of the best in the State, and we are proud to support your efforts. We hope all of your news will be good in 2003!

Mike Arra, Virginia Strankman, Jim Robideau, Paul Lamprill, Vincent Funari, Joy Swanson, Don Brown, and Astrit Morales





Former Director Samuel Lewis presents Della Meadows a plaque as Former Governor Rose Mofford and Acting Director Charles L. Ryan look on at 1994 dedication of the Meadows Unit.

for being the Warden's secretary from when she was first hired to her retirement on December 31, 1983.

Ms. Meadows took her work responsibilities very seriously. On one occasion, she and her husband captured two escaped inmates. She held the inmates at shotgun point in the back of their pickup truck, while her husband drove the truck back to the prison and returned the inmates. She continued to tour both the Florence and Eyman complexes on a yearly basis after her retirement, and kept in close contact with both Wardens and the Northern Region Operations Director.

In 1995 a prison unit at ASPC-Eyman was dedicated and named after Mrs. Della Meadows in commemoration of her years of dedicated service and loyalty to the Department (ASPC-Eyman Meadows Unit). Current and retired staff that had the privilege of knowing and working with her, shared their heartfelt feelings and comments:

Rick Mauldin, Retired, Florence

West: She was a true lady. I recall there being an inmate, Jimmy Williams, that had no family or visitors. Every year, she put together a Christmas food package for him so that he wouldn't be without.

Sara Lawrence, Admin Secretary, ASPC-Eyman: Mrs. Meadows always made people feel special. She always remembered their name and the names of their family members.

John Avenenti, retired:

There was never a holiday, birthday, or anniversary that you didn't get a handwritten, personal note from her. She was really something.

Karen Romines, former employee and Children's Pastor at Coolidge Church of the Nazarene:

She always started the morning with a walk and prayer and devotion time. She always smelled like roses. She always talked about the many Wardens she worked for, and always had nice things to say about everyone. Della had such a

kind heart. On rainy days she would put clear plastic garbage bags over her shoes to go out in the rain. She was a great local historian and authored at least one book.

Frank Terry, Retired, Florence

West: When I first started to work for ADC (the first week) she made a point to welcome me and give me some advice. She said that she had worked for a lot of good men and learned that you should always be fair and firm, but never forget the human side.

Bill Williams, Retired: Her life was an open book. There isn't anything I could say about her that people don't already know. She was a great, great lady.

Jimmy Gallagher, Retired Florence

West: She was always professional, but was on a first-name basis with everyone. She was a really good person.

Robin Smithson, Executive Staff

Assistant, ASPC-Florence: The one thing I remember about Della was her concern for everyone she knew. She always remembered your name and your family. Whenever I saw her she would always ask about my family and how they were all doing. She was a loving, caring person.

Marcella Gallagher, Personnel

Admin. ASPC-Florence: She was a very genuine and caring person. She always made the effort to keep in touch

with staff, even those that retired. She put the feelings of others before her own and she inspired me with her courage and wisdom.

Julie Lowry Executive Staff

Assistant, NROD: In 1980, when I was hired by the Department, Mrs. Meadows took me under her wing and helped me tremendously. Soon after I started my career, my oldest son had a medical emergency and was kept in isolation at our local hospital for two weeks. Mrs. Meadows cut pictures out of magazines and made a book for my son. I will never forget the compassion she had for my family.

Frankie Ballard, Business Office,

ASPC-Eyman: I met Della Meadows in 1968, when I first started at the then "Florence Prison." I saw her for the last time about three weeks ago when she visited the Meadows Unit for a luncheon. On her way home from the luncheon she told her driver she wanted to visit me, but she was so tired she just didn't feel like getting out of the car. So, she sent the driver into the Business Office to get me. I am so glad I had that opportunity to hug her and see that wonderful smile again. Della Meadows was always happy and always had a smile on her face. She was a precious person in every way humanly possible, but she would make YOU feel that YOU were the most special person in the crowd, not herself. She allowed me to call her "Della Rose" (she was a beautiful rose). I will miss you "Della Rose."

Judy Frigo, Warden, ASPC-

Phoenix: I have been blessed to have been the recipient of Della's good counsel over the years. I continue to have profound awe and respect for this woman who always treated people with the utmost kindness. I always thought of Della as an angel on earth...I will truly miss her and her smile.

Mrs. Meadows will forever remain in our hearts and memories and will be sorely missed.

From the Mailbag



Dear Director Charles L. Ryan,

I wanted to share with you some observations and feelings I had during the disturbance which occurred at the Central Unit on November 18, 2002.

I was impressed with the dedication to duty displayed by the staff who initially responded to Cell Block One to extinguish multiple fires. I was amazed how staff not only fought the fires, but that they did so while they were being assaulted by multiple projectiles hurled at them by the inmates. Shields were ultimately required to protect the staff fighting the fires and they were often overcome by smoke and pepper-spray. I was in Cell Block One during this time and remember feeling concerned that inmates on the upper runs could not breathe. I was concerned for the possible injury and loss of life. I sincerely believe that the swift and decisive action by ADC staff prevented serious injury and loss of life to these inmates. I felt proud to be a part of that effort.

I remember feeling very concerned when two additional cell blocks, CB's 3 & 4, became involved in the disturbance. Fires were started in both cell blocks and staff were being assaulted and items thrown at them. One of the officers was struck in the head from behind as she was performing an emergency count. There were other staff assaulted or injured during this incident.

I was overtaken by the quick and well organized action of the responding staff; ALL THE STAFF. I was impressed with the volume of staff and the equipment which was made available to us. We received supplies from the other Florence prisons, as well as from other complexes, including Eyman, Tucson and Phoenix. In addition, staff from the Lewis Complex volunteered to respond to Central Unit. I felt secure in the fact that we had the resources to properly respond to the incident.

We train so often to respond to incidents such as this; however, these training exercises seem to lack the emotion. I was delighted to see that all that training does pay off; staff performed flawlessly and professionally.

The measure of ADC staff state-wide to this incident serves our agency and the citizens of Arizona well.

The citizens of Arizona and inmate family members should know this.

Sincerely,

Doug Schuster

Deputy Warden, Central Unit

Staff Safety Hotline is Alive and Well

by Don Brown, Staff Safety Officer

Yes, the hotline [1-866-787-SAFE (7233)] is still available to staff who may have a staff safety issue. In the past, the hotline has been invaluable in resolving safety issues with stab-resistant vests, radio communications, repair of security cameras, and cracked windshields, to name a few.

Director's Instruction (D. I.) 164 gives the details on proper use of the Staff Safety Hotline. Staff should first file an information report (IR) on the deficiency they

are reporting, including a maintenance work request if called for. This will notify supervisors and managers of the potential safety hazard identified by staff, and will also give the institutional management team the opportunity to resolve the issue at their level.

In a few cases, issues or deficiencies have not been resolved in a timely manner and have been reported through the Staff Safety Hotline. Once brought to the attention of the warden and the management team, all have been resolved in a timely and satisfactory



manner. The hotline is just one more way that staff working together can identify and resolve staff safety issues in the ADC workplace.

disturbance-continued from page 3

up and look for them.” Bock goes on to explain, “staff who responded to the buildings were not prepared to fight fires, yet ended up fighting fires . . . there was so much going on.” Bock was impressed with the response of all other units. “Every time I exited a building there were more responders on site and they were well equipped, organized and ready to follow whatever direction was given. Employees displayed an incredible amount of competence.”

Captain Tedla reported that at one point, “there were more than 200 responders in Central Unit including two Tactical Squad Units and Fire Teams from Eyman and Florence and DART Teams from Central Unit and CB 6. Everyone was responsive and followed directions.” Deputy Warden Schuster, echoes this sentiment, “We received supplies from other units and complexes including ASPCs Eyman, Tucson and Phoenix. Staff from the Lewis Complex volunteered to respond to Central Unit. I felt secure in the fact that we had the resources to properly respond to the incident.”

The quality and quantity of training that ADC employees receive through repeated drills and exercises really made a difference in this situation. Officer Bobby Kirkham, along with other TSU members were conducting quarterly vehicle inspections when the call came. Within 15 minutes of the call, TSU was ready to go. Officer Kirkham is assigned as a TSU Squad Leader and his job was to report to the TSU dorm to get the team geared up, dressed and ready to go. Officer Kirkham also expressed his concern about staff safety and possible injuries. He said, “TSU trains for situations like this, both physically and mentally and they have to be prepared for a long day.” In this case, Officer Kirkham’s day began at 4:30 a.m. and didn’t end until 2:30 a.m. the next day. When asked if he was concerned for his own safety, he replied, “Of course, I want staff to recognize the potential dangers of Central Unit. When I am



Another view of the mess created by inmates in the Florence cell blocks.

suited up in protective gear, I recognize the potential danger I may encounter.”

Non-Correctional Officers also provided invaluable support that resulted in the day’s positive outcome. Curtis Stewart, a member of the Maintenance Crew who is an electrician, played a key role. Mr. Stewart was in a tower when the call came. As we soon discovered the fire source was from electrical outlets. Mr. Stewart took immediate action and turned off the power source to Cell Blocks One, Three and Four. Shutting off the electricity eliminated inmates ability to continue starting fires.

The Medical Unit was equally responsive. LPNII Jody Griffis was on stand-by to administer oxygen to employees who needed it for smoke inhalation. She attended to more than 100 inmates on the yard, checking restraints and treating for exposure to tear gas. She too worked a grueling day from 6 a.m. to about 8 p.m. “Throughout the day I was exposed to tear gas,” she explained. Her impressions of the day were everything went really well. Everyone

knew where to go and what had to be done.

LPN Steve Grabowski was assigned to two officers and responded to inmates that were suffering from asthma attacks, as well as reports of chest pains. He too refers to the operation as well controlled and organized.

Fortunate for Central Unit and the Department of Corrections, injuries to staff were minimal. The inmate population was equally fortunate, as they could have easily experienced serious injury due to smoke inhalation or possible death.

There are many employees who were responsible for the success of this operation who may not have been mentioned in this article. If you were at Central Unit on that day or involved in the aftermath you are to be commended for the long hours and support you provided. Deputy Warden Schuster summarized it best by saying, “The measure of ADC staff, state-wide, to this incident serves our agency and the citizens of Arizona well. The citizens of Arizona and inmate family members should know this.”

Captain Phillip Elliott Receives Elks Award

by Kathryn Sticklin, Executive Staff Assistant, ASPC-Safford

Recently, Phillip Elliott, a Captain at ASPC-Safford Complex Operations with more than 24 years of experience with the Department, was honored by the Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 for his dedication to the Department of Corrections Wild Land Fire Crew Program.

Captain Elliott was one of seven individuals honored from the Arizona Department of Corrections, Arizona Department of Public Safety, Arizona Game and Fish, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Phoenix Police, Paradise Valley Police, and the Phoenix Fire Department to receive a unique award for his outstanding service to our communities. All the names of the award recipients from each agency will be submitted for further possible



Safford Warden Ernest Trujillo proudly stands next to Captain Philip Elliot. Elliott received the Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 award for his dedication to the Department of Corrections Wild Land Fire Crew Program.

recognition at State and National levels.

Elliott has been featured in local, state, and international media coverage for his continued support of this unique program. He started the first Wild Land Fire Crew in 1983 while a Sergeant assigned to ASP- Fort Grant.

The Wild Land Fire Crew has proven to be a cost-effective resource, aiding in the suppression of wild land fires and providing work opportunities, training and job skills to inmates. This crew has been so effective, crews were started at ASPC-Douglas and ASPC-Winslow. During the 2001-2002 fire season, ADC crews contributed more than 80,000 labor hours to the suppression of wild land fires, saving the Arizona taxpayers thousands of dollars.

Lewis Staff Responds to Water Crisis

by Tobey Hodgin, Executive Staff Assistant, ASPC-Lewis

When a fire rendered water wells at ASPC-Lewis' inoperable, staff at the complex were quick to respond.

Rick Hodgin, Physical Plant Administrator, and his dedicated staff put together a contingency plan to pump water to the damaged tanks and maintain a safe water level. Had it not been for the collaborative effort between ADC staff, local fire departments and other service-oriented entities, ASPC-Lewis would have been without running water.

To assist in ASPC-Lewis' water crisis, the Buckeye Rural Fire Department donated the use of 4000 gallon fire tankers and drivers to haul water. The Paradise Landfill, one of the largest water aquifers in the state, allowed the Department to use their water supply. The Idaho Milk Transport Incorporated loaned ADC some of their 6500

gallon milk haulers and the Gila Bend Rural Fire Department provided the Department with a 3000 gallon bladder.

During the water crisis, staff worked 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Staff were placed on rotating shifts to accommodate the 24 hour coverage. Coffee and hot meals were supplied to staff and community volunteers.

When the water wells at Lewis are functioning at total capacity, they pump 1250

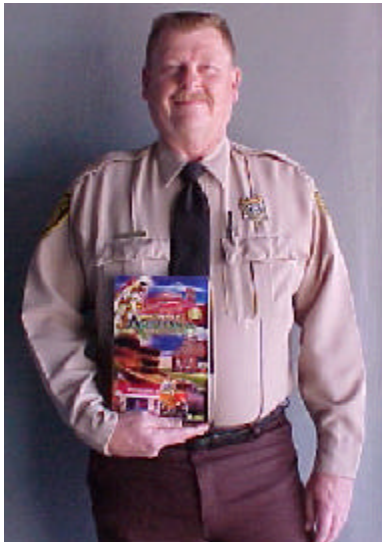


Lewis staff responding to the water crisis.

gallons per minute. ASPC-Lewis pumps approximately 600,000 to 700,000 gallons of water a day.

A Passion for Photography

by Norman Carberry, Correctional Officer II, ASPC-Winslow



Officer Norman Carberry holding a copy of the Northern Arizona phone book. Carberry's photos were used to the design of book's cover.

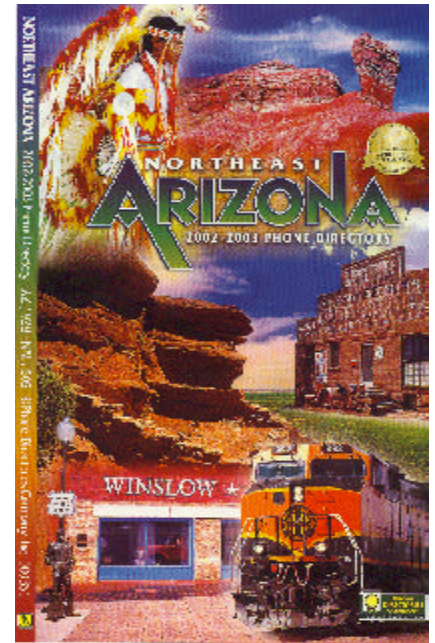
As a teenager, I spent time at the Mongollan Rim sitting on the edge of a cliff watching deer drinking from a stream below with the sunlight reflecting off the water like millions of gold nuggets. I promised myself some day I would buy a good camera and capture these type of moments on film.

That day came, but many years later while working for the Department of

Corrections in Texas. In Texas, I would photograph old barns, abandoned homes and wild flowers. I continued to practice and learn as much as I could given the limitation of the scenery. Longing for more, I began to look back to my childhood and visualize the beautiful scenery of Northern Arizona that I visited in my youth. It was these memories that led me back to Arizona. I sought and gained employment with the Arizona Department of Corrections and accepted assignment at ASPC-Winslow in 1996.

Shortly after moving to Arizona, an association formed between "Arizona Highways" writer/photographer Nick Berezinks and myself. I sent him one of my photos for his opinion. He contacted me by phone and asked to see more of my work. Since then I have accompanied Nick on photo shoots to various locations throughout the state.

The La Posada Hotel in Winslow has displayed my work and visiting magazine writers have recommended me to various magazines that have purchased photos or have hired me for specific assignments including: "Preservation," "Arizona Tourist News," and "USA Today."



A close-up of the Northern Arizona phone book which uses Carberry's work.

Winslow Chamber of Commerce has contracted my work for promotional brochures, web sites, bill-boards and the "Northern Arizona" phone book.

Prison Outlet Store Busy During the Holidays

During the holiday shopping season, Arizona Department of Corrections employees and residents of Arizona flocked to the Prison Outlet Store in Florence, Arizona searching for that one of a kind gift for that special somebody.

Open from nine to five, seven days a week for the holidays, the prison store sold plenty of unique items handcrafted by inmates such as leather wallets, coin purses, vests and belts, all sorts of jewelry and wood model kits of historical Arizona stagecoaches.

Birdhouses made from colorful license plates and personalized license



An inmate creation: a birdhouse made from license plates.

plates made in the Arizona Correctional Industries Industrial Yard at Florence, t-shirts with novelty imprints and Eldarica Pine Trees were among the hottest selling items this season.

Inmates received 75 percent of the sale price of an item they've crafted that was sold at the Prison Outlet with the other 25 per cent allocated for store handling and processing.

The store is operated by Arizona Correctional Industries (ACI).

The Arizona State Prison Outlet is located at Highway 79 and Butte Avenue at the stoplight.

Safford Service Dogs Receive Vests

by Kathryn Sticklin, Executive Staff Assistant, ASPC-Safford



Officer John Hedges/Arco, Officer Stuart Pritchard/Ariemus; Michael Valdez, Officer Jonathan Fertig/Cage; Officer Steven Ward/Vadar

Cage, Ariemus, Vadar and Arco, four ADC service dogs, are wagging their tails in excitement after being presented kevlar vests from 12-year-old Michael Valdez of Tucson.

The president and founder of Arizona's Protect Police K-9, Valdez has been supplying vests to service dogs for three years. To date, Valdez has presented 65 vests to law enforcement agencies in Arizona,

including ASPC-Tucson. He is scheduled to present more vests to law enforcement agencies in the near future.

A story told by his father of a Tucson Police Department canine being shot inspired Valdez to try and vest all law enforcement dogs in Arizona. The story motivated the 12-year-old to research and purchase vests. To raise the money, Valdez

held yard sales and sold water at dog shows. The Tucson Police Department was the first canine unit outfitted by Valdez.

According to, Valdez there are more than 200 working police dogs in Northern Arizona who need Kevlar vests, and he will not stop until they are all vested. In fact, Valdez met with Governor Jane Hull who expressed her hope that he succeeds in his goal of ensuring all law enforcement canines in Arizona are presented a vest.

Simply supplying dogs with bulletproof and stabproof vests is not enough for Valdez.

"I hope to one day to have a law enacted which would make it mandatory for canines to wear vests, and a felony for anyone who harmed them while on duty," said Valdez.

The ASPC-Safford K-9 Unit helped Valdez' organization raise the money to purchase the vests by seeking donations from local businesses and selling 37 Christmas decorations that they made. In less than a month, the Safford employees staff raised \$1500 for the vests.

Motorcycle Club Celebrates One Year Anniversary

by Jess Medrano, Parole Manager

Recently, the Arizona Corrections Employees Motorcycle Club, (ACE) celebrated it's first year as the motorcycle club for ADC employees.

We have close to 50 members in Yuma, Tucson, Florence and Pinetop. The Club has supported four SECC Bike Runs, three memorial runs and several local law enforcement runs and meets once a month with at least one ride per month. Each ride is selected by the members. The rides can be short or



as long as two day overnight rides.

Membership is \$30.00 for the first year including an ACE t-shirt. There is a \$20.00 renewal fee.

If you like to ride, meet other ADC

staff throughout the state and talk motorcycles, come with us and join ACE. It's a great way to get to know Arizona, ADC staff and support worthy causes.

For more information and to obtain a membership application, contact club President Jess Medrano at 602 255-4240, Vice Pres or Jeff Stewart at 623 386-6160 ex 4070 or e-mail ACEMC@aol.com